



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Truckee River Operating Agreement Implementation resolves over a century of water rights conflict

SACRAMENTO –After more than a century of conflict, the troubled waters of the scenic Truckee River that have both united and divided California, Nevada, the federal government, tribal and other interests along its 145-mile course are now flowing toward a less controversial future.

In November, the historic Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) cleared its final legal hurdles leading to implementation, marking the successful completion of more than two decades of federally-facilitated negotiations and environmental studies. TROA was officially implemented by the federal Water Master on December 1, 2015, replacing an inflexible river management system that is more than a century old. This major milestone will be celebrated at a January 5 press conference in Reno by U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nevada, along with representatives of the five major TROA signatories—the U.S. Department of Interior, the states of California and Nevada, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Conflicts over storage and release of Truckee River water – which flows from California’s high Sierra into Lake Tahoe and other basin reservoirs before flowing into Nevada and on to Pyramid Lake, 40 miles northeast of Reno– triggered decades of high level attempts to reach accord. The 1990 Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act (Settlement Act) established the basis for the TROA, which was formally signed in 2008 but still required certain conditions to be completed.

The Settlement Act and TROA establish the total future Lake Tahoe and Truckee River water allocations between California and Nevada and modify the operation of the federal and non-federal reservoirs in the Truckee River Basin. The Agreement enhances conditions for the endangered Cui-ui and the

threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the Truckee River Basin, species vital to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Pyramid Lake fishery. TROA improves Truckee River water quality, enhances instream flows and recreational opportunities and provides for increased municipal, industrial and environmental drought protection. TROA increases drought protection for all Truckee River water users by facilitating the use of credit water storage and cooperative exchanges of this credit water between basin reservoirs to maintain the most beneficial flows and reservoir levels

The Department of Water Resources represented the State of California in the 1990 Settlement Act negotiations sponsored by Senator Reid and continued to represent the state in the TROA negotiations, and as lead agency in the formal environmental review process, in coordination with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Water Resources Control Board.

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California has been dealing with the effects of drought for four years. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit Drought.CA.Gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

